(c) The Central Electrical Authority have accorded techno-economic approval to the Talcher Super Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) proposed to be set up in the Central Sector at an estimated total cost of Rs. 1130 crores. This project can be considered for an investment decision after the environment and forest clearance been obtained, the coal linkage has been established clearance and the funding pattern has been determined.

Subsidence in coal belts near Asansol

732. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a number of cases of subsidence in the Coal near Asansol;

(b) if so, how many such cases were noticed recently.

(c) whether it is a fact that areas where such incidents took place belonged to the Eastern Coal Field Ltd; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such occurrances in future.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) During the last one year only few instances of surface subsidence or formation of pot holes in isolated spots over the old abondoned in-accessible water logged workings have occured. Such subsidences have taken place both in the areas belonging to ECL and areas not under ECL. However, such cases are attributable to unscientific mining operation carried out prior to nationalisation of coal mines. Steps taken to control subsidence are as follows:

(i) Mining operations are carried out in conformity with the rules and regulations and strictly as per conditions imposed by the D.G.M.S.,

(ii) Extraction below built in areas is done only in conjunction with stowing;

(iii) Restricted working/extraction in case of workings under shallow cover,

(iv) Prohibition of construction activities over areas declared unsafe for habitation.

Payment of pension

733. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1036 given in the Rajya Sabha on the fifth May, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the erstwhile Burmah Shell Limited which deducted the contribution towards the Provident Fund and Gratuity, had provided funds to the Burmah Shell pension Fund now being operated by Bharat Petroleum Corpodation Co. Limited;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof. and

(c) by when the arrears are likely to be paid to pensioners who superannuated from 1st July, 1961 to 30th April, 1973?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: (a) and (b) Burmah Shell had paid to the employes concerned Provident Fund and Gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act as stipulated without making any deduction. As regards computation of pension under the Trust Fund separately created for the purpose the pension was to be calculated on the basis of a formula evolved which envisaged that to the extent the Company had made contributions to the Provident Fund, there would be a deduction at the rate of 4 per cent annum from basic pension as laid

down under regulations of the Trust Fund. Accordingly, the funds left by Burmah Shell were in line with the rules governing the Fund

(c) All arrears to all pensioners have been paid with effect from 1-5-1973.

Bungling in Coal India Limited.

734. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-group appointed to inquire into the alleged bungling in the accounts of Coal India Limited for the year 1984-85 has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the inquiry and what action has been taken against the officials who were found involved in the bungling?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) A Sub-Group of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Energy was constituted by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs in April, 1986 to go into the details of the circumstances which led Coal India Limited to indicate an estimated profit of Rs. 13.83 crores for the financial year 1984-85 and the reasons for wrong estimation of profit ultimately leading to loss of Rs. 78 crores by coal India Limited during the same year. The Sub-Group has not yet submitted its report

However, based on the findings of the Task Force appointed by the Department of Coal which went into reasons for variation in Bharat Coking Coal Limited is loss reported earlier and actual loss suffered, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated/taken against the erring officers. Similarly, based on the findings of an internal Com-Fields Limited to enquire into the mittee appointed by Western Coal-variations between profit reported as per financial accounts and that as per cost statements, the Company has initiated disciplinary action against the defaulting officers.

Import of coking coal

735. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted a private firm to import coking coal and lime stone; and

(b) if so,what is the name of the firm and the quantity allowed to be imported.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Relief for private power units

736. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Institute of Economic Studies has submitted a memorandum to Government in July, 1986 seeking relief for private power units; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unexploited hydro-electric potential

737. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States in the country have large unexploited hydro-electric potential, but do not have adequate demand; if so, the names thereof; and